

Message Text

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PAGE 01 COPENH 00089 091837Z

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SUBJECT: BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON FOREIGN ENERGY PROGRAMS: DENMARK

REF: STATE 301432

SUMMARY. DENMARK IS FULLY DEPENDENT UPON FOREIGN SUPPLIES FOR ITS ENERGY NEEDS. THE COUNTRY DOES NOT HAVE A COMPREHENSIVE ENERGY POLICY, BUT SUPPORTS ACTIVELY INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION, ESPECIALLY THE IEA PROGRAMS. THE MAJOR ENERGY POLITICAL OBJECTIVES ARE TO DIVERSIFY SUPPLY SOURCES AND TO CONSERVE AND ECONOMIZE CONSUMPTION. LOCAL RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT OF ALTERNATIVE ENERGY SOURCES IS DONE ON A VERY LIMITED SCALE. WHILE ALMOST ALL THE LIMITED ENERGY R&D IS GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED, THERE IS NO CENTRALIZED PROGRAM-MANAGEMENT. EXPENSES FOR R&D ARE PART OF OVERALL BUDGET IN WHICH ENERGY-RELATED ACTIVITIES ARE NOT ITEMIZED. END SUMMARY.

1. THE FOLLOWING IS EMBASSY'S FULL RESPONSE TO ALL ITEMS REFTEL.

2. COUNTRY BACKGROUND: OVERALL GOVERNMENT STRUCTURE:

I. RESPONSIBILITY FOR LEGISLATION ON ENERGY MATTERS, INCLUDING LICENSING FOR NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS, RESTS WITH PARLIAMENT. A 21-MEMBE

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PAGE 02 COPENH 00089 091837Z

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PERMANENT ENERGY COMMITTEE HAS BEEN SET UP IN
PARLIAMENT TO REVIEW AND DISCUSS ANY PROPOSED LEGISLATION.

II. FOLLOWING MINISTRIES HAVE RESPONSIBILITIES AS IDENTIFIED
FOR ENERGY-RELATED ACTIVITIES:

MINISTRY FOR COMMERCE: ENERGY ANALYSIS, ADMINISTRATION,
OVER-
ALL PLANNING, PLANNING COORDINATOR WITH OTHER AGENCIES.

MINISTRY FOR EDUCATION: R&D DONE BY UNIVERSITIES.

MINISTRY FOR PUBLIC WORKS: SUBSOIL MATTERS, DENMARK PROPER.
MINISTRY FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS: ENVIRONMENTAL ASPECTS OF
ENERGY PRODUCTION AND USE.

MINISTRY FOR GREENLAND: ALL ENERGY MATTERS IN GREENLAND.

MINISTRY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS: INTERNATIONAL ENERGY MATTERS.

3. ENERGY POLICY:

I. DENMARK, TOGETHER WITH SWEDEN, RANKS THIRD IN WORLD ENERGY
CONSUMPTION PER CAPITA PER YEAR. PRACTICALLY ALL ENERGY SUPPLIES
ARE IMPORTED; A MODEST LOCAL CRUDE PRODUCTION COVERS LESS THAN
THREE PERCENT OF TOTAL NEEDS. THERE IS NO NATURAL GAS PRODUCTION,
AND ALTHOUGH THERE ARE DISCUSSIONS ABOUT INITIATING SOME, SUCH PLANS
ARE
NOT EXPECTED TO BE REALIZED WITHIN THIS DECADE. NINETY PERCENT
OF ENERGY SUPPLIES ARE PETROLEUM PRODUCTS, WITH THE REMAINDER
ACCOUNTED
FOR BY COAL FOR ELECTRIC POWER PLANTS AND THE CEMENT INDUSTRY.
DENMARK HAS NO NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS; THEIR INTRODUCTION IS
PENDING A POLITICAL DECISION EXPECTED IN THE NEAR FUTURE.
DENMARK'S POSITION IN A GLOBAL CONTEXT MUST BE DESCRIBED AS WEAK
AND MOST VULNERABLE, EVEN TO TEMPORARY DISTURBANCES IN
SUPPLIES. ITS ENERGY OBJECTIVES ARE 1) TO DIVERSIFY SOURCES
OF ENERGY, 2) TO REDUCE AND ECONOMIZE LOCAL CONSUMPTION, 3) TO
ENCOURAGE NATIONAL HYDROCARBON EXPLORATION PROGRAMS AND,
4) TO PARTICIPATE ACTIVELY IN INTERNATIONAL ENERGY COOPERATION
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PAGE 03 COPENH 00089 091837Z

PROGRAMS.

A. DESIRED DEGREE OF SELF-SUFFICIENCY: NOT RELEVANT.
SEE ABOVE.

B. R&D PRIORITIES: HIGHEST PRIORITY IS GIVEN TO ENCOURAGING
HYDROCARBON EXPLORATION AND EXPLOITATION IN DENMARK AND
GREENLAND. NO CHANGE, COMPARED TO PREVIOUS POLICY.

C. ONLY LOCAL R&D PROJECT FOR ALTERNATIVE ENERGY OF SOME SIGNIFICANCE IS A "ZERO ENERGY HOUSE" RECENTLY BUILT AND BEING TESTED AT THE TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY NEAR COPENHAGEN. HOUSE, WHICH IS HYPER-INSULATED, IS HEATED 60-70 PERCENT BY SOLAR ENERGY. PROJECT IS CONDUCTED BY DENMARK'S TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY, A GOVERNMENT INSTITUTION.

D. THERE ARE NO PRESENT OR PLANNED JOINT ENERGY R&D PROJECTS.

E. PRIVATE INDUSTRY IS ENGAGED IN ENERGY R&D AS CONCESSION HOLD-ERS FOR EXPLORATION AND EXPLOITATION OF HYDROCARBONS. OTHER PRIVATE INDUSTRY INVOLVEMENT IS DIRECTED TOWARDS ENERGY SAVINGS AND CONSERVATION RATHER THAN R&D OF ALTERNATIVE SOURCE OF ENERGY.

F. THERE IS NO LEGISLATION IN FORCE ESPECIALLY AFFECTING ENERGY R&D. HOWEVER, ACCORDING TO A GOVERNMENT SOURCE, THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION IS EXPECTED TO PROPOSE IN FEBRUARY 1976 LEGISLATION FOR CENTRALIZED GOVERNMENT CONTROL OVER ENERGY R&D PROGRAMS. LEGISLATION ON A DOMESTIC ENERGY POLICY, INCLUDING PROPOSED GOVERNMENT CONTROL OVER ELECTRIC POWER SUPPLIES AND DISTRIBUTION IS PENDING PARLIAMENT ACTION.

II. ENERGY R&D ACTIVITIES:

A. AS NOTED ABOVE, ENERGY R&D IS PRESENTLY CONCENTRATED ON EXPLORATION OF SUBSOIL IN SEARCH OF HYDROCARBONS. R&D FOR ALTERNATIVE ENERGY SOURCES IS DONE LOCALLY ON A LIMITED SCALE ONLY, AND CONCENTRATES MAINLY ON SOLAR ENERGY (SEE ENERGY POLICY, I.C) AND IMPROVED INSULATION OF RESIDENTIAL HOUSING.

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PAGE 04 COPENH 00089 091837Z

B. BUDGET FIGURES ON ENERGY-RELATED R&D ARE NOT AVAILABLE. COMMERCE MINISTRY SOURCE IS RELUCTANT TO PRESENT EVEN A ROUGH ESTIMATE, SINCE SUCH FIGURES ARE NOT EAR-MARKED IN BUDGET. HOWEVER, THIS SITUATION IS EXPECTED TO BE CHANGED WHEN PROPOSED LEGISLATION FOR CENTRALIZED GOVERNMENT CONTROL OVER ENERGY R&D PROGRAMS IS PASSED.

4. INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES:

I. DENMARK IS AN ACTIVE MEMBER OF THE FOLLOWING INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS CONCERNED WITH ENERGY R&D IAEA, NEA (UNDER OECD), IEA. FURTHER, DENMARK IS A MEMBER OF THE FOLLOWING ORGANIZATIONS, WHICH ARE NOT DIRECTLY ENERGY R&D ORIENTED, BUT WHICH HAVE ENERGY R&D PROGRAMS: NATO (CCMS), EC, AND THE NORDIC COUNCIL.

II. DENMARK'S MEMBERSHIP OF ABOVE ORGANIZATIONS ARE ALL
COVERED BY INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS. ALL ARE CONSIDERED AS BEING
ACTIVE.
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